Open Sky Eastern India's Cable TV Operators

7577. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of IFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report published in the Economic Times, New Delhi, dated the 22nd May, 1994 under the caption, "Open sky for Eastern India's Cable TV Operators";

(b) if so, what are the facts and details in this regard;

(c) how Government propose to meet the situation of foreign broadcasters ruling over India;

(d) whether the cable television operators in the eastern parts of the country are resorting to their own version of open sky policy;

(e) if so, what are the facts in this regard;

(f) to what extent these operations are likely to affect other parts of the country;

(g) what is Government's open sky policy; and

(h) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to check the operation of picking up of signals from far off satellites by the cable TV operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir However, Government does not have any details other than those mentioned in the news item.

(c) It is Government's constant endeavour to bring about a qualitative improvement in the programmes on Doordarshan in order to sustain the interest of its viewers.

(d) The Government is not aware of any private party resorting to their own version of open sky policy.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

(g) and (h) Government does not contemplate any move to check the picking up of signals from foreign satellites.

False declaration of circulation by dailies and weeklies in Karnataka

7578. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATON AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) in how many cases the Registrar of Newspapers has initiated action for false declaration of circulation by dailies and weeklies in Karnataka;

(b) whether the Registrar of Newspapers is aware that some of the weeklies and dailies have given false declarations of their circulation for getting Newsprint quota without actually publishing in the publications;

(c) what are the agencies through which the Registrar of Newspapers gets such cases investigated; and

(d) what is the circulation revenue of each of the Urdu Dailies in Karnataka which are claiming a circulation of more than 7000 copies per day?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) There was only one instance involving a Kannada daily in which case the Newsprint Entitlement Certificate issued during 1993-94 was cancelled.

(b) No such cases has come to the notice of the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI).

(c) Such cases are investigated by RNI through his own circulation teams.

(d) Government does not have information about the revenue earnings of

newspapers, as these are in the private sector.

Abolition of Board of Film Certification

7579. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to abolish the Board of Film Certification in view of the openness allowed in films which are freely depicting excess violence and sex therein;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to check excess violence, sex and vulgarity in films?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Under the Cinematograph Act, 1952, all films intended for public exhibition in India are required to be certified by the Central Board of Film Certification.

(c) The Central Government has already issued guidelines for certification of films under the Cinematograph Act, 1952. A copy of the guidelines issued on 6-12-91 is annexed as Statement (*See below*). Guidelines 2(i), 2(iv) 2(vii) and 2(viii) specifically relate to checking of excessive violence, sex and vulgarity in films. Any part of the film which violates any one or more of the guidelines is deleted before a certificate is granted. Where a film is considered not suitable for exhibition to non-adults, it is granted 'A' Certificate. If the objectionable impact cannot be removed by deletions, the film is refused a certificate. Instructions have also been issued to the Central Board of Film Certification to ensure that guidelines especially relating to sex and violence are strictly adhered to so that certified films do not attract charges of obscenity and excessive violence.

Statement

[To be published in the Extraordinary Gazette of India Part II Section 3 Sub-Section (ii)]

Government of India

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

New Delhi, the 6th December, 1991

NOTIFICATION

S.O.836(E) In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of section 5B of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 (37 of 1952) and in supersession of the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting No. S.O.9(E) dated the 7th January, 1978, except as respects things done or omitted to be done before such supersession, the Central Government hereby directs that in sanctioning films for public exhibition, the Board of Film Certification shall be guided by the following principles:

1. The objectives of film certification will be to ensure that;

(a) the medium of film remains responsible and sensitive to the values and standards of society;

(b) artistic expression and creative freedom are not unduly curbed;

(c) certification is responsive to social change;

(d) the medium of film provides clean and healthy entertainment; and

(e) as far as possible, the film is of aesthetic value and cinematically of a good standard.

2. In pursuance of the above objectives, the Board of Film Centification shall ensure that—

(i) anti-social activities such as violence are not glorified or justified;

(ii) the modus operandi of criminals, other visuals or words likely to incite the commission of any offence are not depicted;